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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Bishop
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

: Mr. Bishop

DATE: 6-11-68

OM : M. A. Jones

BJECT: MURKIN
ARTICLE BY JERRY O'LEARY
FOR "THE READER'S DIGEST"

JEREMIAH O'LEARY

By memorandum dated May 21, 1968, I advised you of the desire of Jerry O'Leary (very reliable contact at "The Evening Star") and "The Reader's Digest" to publish an article regarding the investigation to identify and apprehend James Earl Ray. My memorandum noted that a similar article concerning Joseph Corbett, Jr. (the kidnap-killer of Adolph Coors III) which appeared in "The Reader's Digest" in the Fall of 1960 produced leads which resulted in the apprehension of Corbett in Canada. I also noted that in view of his strong background in the Ray investigation, O'Leary could write an article on his own concerning Ray--and that if such an article is to be published, it would greatly be to our advantage to have the benefit of reading it and offering any changes we feel necessary, prior to publication.

## CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

O'Leary completed his fugitive-type article regarding James Earl Ray last week in time for it to be scheduled for publication in the August, 1968, issue of "The Reader's Digest." Immediately after he submitted the manuscript to the Bureau for review and any changes we desired made, Ray was apprehended in London.

Since the Ray article had already been scheduled for the August, 1968, issue, "The Reader's Digest" asked O'Leary to revise it so as to reflect Ray's apprehension in order that it could still appear in the August issue of the magazine. And in this connection, "The Reader's Digest" immediately contacted its representatives in Canada and England to have them obtain details in those countries of the facts underlying the international aspects of the case.

ENCLOSURE 110

1/11-39861-45

Enclosure

15 JUN 18 1968

1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosure
1 - Mr. Bishop - Enclosure
1 - Mr. Rosen - Enclosure
1 - Mr. C. L. McGowan - Enclosure

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CONTINUED - OVER

M. A. Jones to Bishop Memo
RE: MURKIN

Attached is the manuscript of O'Leary's revised article. It consists primarily of material which previously has been published, together with information furnished by the Canadian and British representatives of "The Reader's Digest." The article is not attributed to the FBI.

O'Leary has advised that "The Reader's Digest" assembled copies of all articles written about the case in New York, Washington and the cities (such as Los Angeles, Atlanta, Birmingham, Memphis, and St. Louis) where important developments occurred. To add action and interest, the article uses the technique of quoting conversations which might have, but did not actually occur.

The article has been reviewed by the Legal Department of "The Reader's Digest" with a view to deleting material which might be construed as prejudicial to Ray's trial. Such deletions by the magazine's Legal Department have been noted on the attached manuscript.

In addition, several other changes have been incorporated on the attached manuscript in the interest of accuracy or to circumvent matters which might be construed as over-dramatization.

The article reflects very high credit upon the FBI for the determined and meticulous investigation which resulted in the identification of Ray and his apprehension in London.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached revised manuscript of O'Leary's article be returned to the Crime Records Division so that it can be turned over to the Washington Office of "The Reader's Digest" which has scheduled the article for its August, 1968, issue. As previously noted, the article was prepared by O'Leary on the basis of his reading, interviewing and "reportorial digging" in many locations; and it has been reviewed and approved by the Legal Department of the magazine. The article is not attributed to the FBI.

John Barron of "The Reader's Digest" 6/13/68 GWG

I have some question about this coming out before the trial, but I think it is OK 6/13 TSB

OK

# The Biggest Manhunt in History

By Jeremiah O'Leary

The great detective story of how the FBI identified and tracked down the escaped convict accused of killing Martin Luther King.

Department of "The Reader's Digest" This description is being made less specific.

examination of the bathroom, intensely questioning tenants, FBI agents had by midnight reconstructed the murder. "The guy we want checked in at 3:15 p.m. under the name John Willard," Special Agent in charge Robert Jensen telephoned Cartha D. DeLoach, assistant to ~~the~~ Director Hoover. "He's about 5 feet 11, medium build, brown hair, blue eyes. He's got a dimpled chin, scar on his forehead and his left ear sticks out."

Meanwhile, a block from the motel, police discovered a Remington 30.06 hunting ~~the~~ rifle, ~~the~~ a bedspread and a blue travel ~~canvas~~ bag containing toiletries and underwear discarded in a doorway. At 4:40 a.m. an agent landed at Washington's National Airport with the evidence. By 5:30 a.m. -- just 12 hours after the killer crouched in the bathroom -- this rifle had been inspected for fingerprints and was being test-fired in the FBI laboratory. Through the manufacturers the FBI later in the day traced the weapon to the Aeromarine Supply Co. in Birmingham, Ala. Records there showed that a Harvey Lowmyer had bought the rifle, the telescopic sight and bullets on March 30. ~~for $248.59 cash~~.

But there were problems. Fingerprints on the rifle were too indistinct to be of immediate use. ~~Worse, there was no absolute proof~~

~~rifle. It had flattened too much on impact to permit conclusive scientific comparison~~. And nowhere in the country did union rolls, tax lists, credit, military or crime records reveal anything about the John Willard who registered at the rooming house or the Harvey Lowmyer who purchased the rifle.

"We might as well face it," Hoover told his men as the investigation entered its fifth day. "We're up against an elaborate plan to deceive us. Right now I'd say our best bet is the car -- wherever it is."

Looking Westward. On the morning of April 11, Mrs. Ernest Payne, a housewife in Atlanta, Ga. -- 250 miles southeast of Memphis -- learned from a friend that the FBI was searching for ~~the assassin's~~ a white Mustang. "Why, I know where a car like that is," exclaimed Mrs. Payne. "I saw a man leave it in front of my apartment last week. Now I remember -- it was the morning after Dr. King was shot. It's still there!" The Atlanta police were notified, later the FBI. Two carloads of agents sped through downtown Atlanta to begin an inch-by-inch inspection of the Mustang.